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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/46/721)]

46/118. Strengthening of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/135 of 15 December 1989 and 45/180 of 21 December 1990,

Bearing in mind Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1989/46 of 6 March 1989, 1/ 1990/25 of 27 February 1990 2/ and 1991/23 of 5 March 1991, 3/ as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 1990/47 of 25 May 1990 and 1991/36 of 31 May 1991,

Recalling its resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, in particular, section V thereof,

Considering that the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms is one of the basic purposes of the United Nations enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and an issue of the utmost importance for the Organization,

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1/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No. 2 (E/1989/20), chap. II, sect. A.

2/ Ibid., 1990, Supplement No. 2 and corrigendum (E/1990/22 and Corr.1), chap.II, sect. A.

3/ Ibid., 1991, Supplement No. 2 (E/1991/22), chap. II, sect. A.

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Recalling that the Secretary-General in his report on the work of the Organization for 1991 stated that the protection of human rights had become one of the keystones in the arch of peace, 4/

Recognizing the important role of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat in the promotion, protection and implementation of human rights and the need to provide sufficient human resources to the Centre, particularly in view of the fact that its workload has greatly increased, while resources have failed to keep pace with the expansion of its responsibilities, 5/

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General 5/ and noting that, while increased resources were accorded by the General Assembly by its resolution 45/248 B, section V, in response to the critical situation faced by the Centre for Human Rights in 1991, since then, the workload of the Centre, by reason of decisions of intergovernmental and expert bodies, inter alia, has continued to increase in response to strongly felt international concerns,

Noting that the Centre for Human Rights was requested by the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council to carry out additional mandates after the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993,

1. Emphasizes that, when the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 is reviewed, adequate staffing, temporary assistance and other resources should be allocated to the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat so as to enable it to respond to its increasing workload and to its needs in order to carry out all the functions assigned to it, including those relating to the preparations for the World Conference on Human Rights to be held in 1993 and the Conference itself;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that sufficient resources are accorded to the Centre for Human Rights to enable it to carry out, in full and on time, all the mandates, including the additional ones, resulting from the decisions of intergovernmental and expert bodies;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit an interim report to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-eighth session and a final report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the developments relating to the activities of the Centre for Human Rights and on the measures taken to implement the present resolution.

75th plenary meeting
17 December 1991

4/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/46/1), sect. VI.

5/ See E/1990/50.

6/ A/46/603.